

31. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the grasper is insertable through a controlled entry bleeding site in a wall of the heart.

32. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the grasper is insertable through an artery or vein.

33. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the fastener is a clip, staple, coil, suture, dual button fastener, or cufflink-link fastener.

34. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, further comprising visualization means to view the leaflets.

35. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the grasper is insertable into a heart chamber.

36. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the grasper is capable of grasping and coapting the leaflets of the valve when the grasper is in the heart chamber.

B 1 sub 37. (NEW) A fastener for securing coapted valve leaflets together, said fastener comprising:

a first plate;

a penetrating element on the first plate;

a second plate; and

a hole on the second plate arranged to receive the penetrating element when the plates are brought together to fasten a pair of valves therebetween.

38. (NEW) A fastener as in Claim 37, wherein the first and second plates are hinged together.

39. (NEW) A fastener as in Claim 37, including two penetrating elements on the first plate and two receiving holes on the second plate.

40. (NEW) A fastener as in Claim 37, wherein the penetrating element passes entirely through the receiving hole.